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10/002,259	11/01/2001	Junichi Yamagishi	45762/264216	2481

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EXAMINER

YOO, JASSON H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/002,259	Applicant(s) YAMAGISHI, JUNICHI	
	Examiner Jasson H. Yoo	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,4,6,8,10 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

"operation storing means" in page 2, line 22, should be --operation information storing means--.

Claim 1 recites the limitation of, "a processing section comprising a network interface, wherein the processing section is connected to the operation storing means via the network interface, and the network interface is connected to a network, and the processing section" in page 2, lines 21-23. Claim 1 also recites, a processing section comprising a network interface, wherein the processing section" in page 3, lines 14-15. It is not clear if the claim incorporates the same processing section or separate processing sections. Claim 1 also recites the limitation of, "the processing section of each of the plurality of medal keeping and paying client apparatuses," in page 4, lines 2-3. Furthermore, claim 1 recites the limitation of "the processing sections of the plurality of the medal keeping and paying client apparatuses," in page 4, lines 11-12. It is not clear if the processing section is part of each of the plurality of medal keeping and paying client apparatuses or each of the processing section is part of each of the plurality of medal keeping and paying client apparatuses comprises a processing section. Applicant is required to clearly define and specify the term "processing section" or "processing sections". Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 objected for incorporating the same limitations as discussed above.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa (JP Publication number: 09-117567) in view of Walker et al. (US 6,001,016).

Claim 1; Hasegawa discloses a medal keeping and paying system comprising:
at least one medal keeping and paying server apparatus, the medal keeping and paying server comprising:

medal keeping means for counting and keeping at least one input medal (deposit section; page 4, paragraph 5),

medal paying means for paying the at least one medal if a payment signal is input (expenditure section; page 4, paragraph 5),

right person information inputting means for inputting right person peculiar information for identifying a right person such as physical information to authenticate the right person (optical input device; page 4, paragraphs 5-6, 14),

operation information storing means for storing at least count information associated with at least the medal keeping means (magnetic memory and computer; page 5, paragraphs 10-11),

right person information storing means in which the right person peculiar information for identifying the right person such as the physical information to authenticate the right person is previously stored (page 5, paragraphs 6, 11, 14),

a memory for temporarily keeping information which is being processed such as the count information of the medal keeping means (magnetic memory and computer; page 5, paragraphs 10-11), and

a processing section (page 5, paragraph 11) which

authenticates a right person from the right person peculiar information input from the right person information inputting means and the right person peculiar information stored in the right person information storing means (page 5, paragraphs 11, 14), and which

outputs, when the right person is authenticated, a payment signal to the medal paying means and controls payment of a medal from the medal paying means, and a plurality of medal keeping and paying client apparatus comprising (page 5, paragraphs 11, 14):

medal keeping means for counting and keeping an input medal (deposit section; page 4, paragraphs 5, 14);

medal paying means for paying a medal if a payment signal is input (deposit section; page 4, paragraphs 5, 14);

right person information inputting means for inputting right person peculiar information for identifying a right person such as physical information to authenticate a right person (optical input device; page 4, paragraphs 5-6, 14);

right person information storing means in which the right person peculiar information for identifying the right person such as the physical information to authenticate the right person is stored (magnetic memory and computer; page 5, paragraphs 10-11),;

a memory for temporarily keeping information which is being processed, wherein the information comprises the count information of the medal keeping means (magnetic memory and computer; page 5, paragraphs 10-11); and

a processing session which

authenticates a right person from the right person peculiar information input from the right person information inputting means and the right person peculiar information stored in the right person information storing means (page 5, paragraphs 11, 14).

However, Hasegawa does not teach the medal keeping and paying system is connected to a network. Analogous to Hasegawa medal keeping and playing system, where the credit and player's information are monitored, Walker et al. teach of a credit and player tracking system connected to a network. Walker et al. teach the following features:

a plurality of credit and player tracking client apparatuses (remote terminal 5 in Fig. 1, and cols. 3:60 – 4:8) and a credit and player tracking server apparatus connected in a network (Fig. 1);

each credit and player tracking client apparatus is capable of receiving credit and players' information from the player and from the server (cols. 4:44-59, 5:51 – 7:7), and

the credit and player tracking server apparatus is capable of storing credit and players' information, update credit and players' information, and access credit and players' information (col. 8:19-48).

The network server and the plurality of gaming apparatuses are connected to an operation information storing means for storing credit information (player database stores credit balance, col. 6:10-21).

The multiple credit and player information apparatuses connected in a network, allow players to choose from a plurality of gaming apparatuses (Figs. 1, 8, 9; cols. 6:45-61, 7:34-43, 48-54, 8:12-17), and thus prevent the problem of having only one apparatus in the gaming center providing service to a large number of players. The credit and player tracking system further allows the game management to monitor the gaming machines, and the players account (col. 8:40-48).

Therefore it would have been obvious in one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hasegawa medal keeping and playing system with players' credit and personal information, and incorporate Walker's player's and credit and personal information tracking system connected in a network, in order to allow multiple apparatuses to service the players, and allow the game management to easily monitor the gaming machines, and the players account.

Hasegawa in view of Walker discloses the medal keeping and paying system as discussed above. Hasegawa in view of Walker specifically teaches the information storing means and the processing section is connected to client apparatus through a network interface (Walker Figs. 1-4). However, Hasegawa in view of Walker fails to

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teach that the processing section connected to the information storing means through the network interface. Nevertheless having the processing section connected to the operation storing means through a network interface would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art since the courts ruled that it would be obvious to make components separable if it were considered desirable for any reason. See *In re Dulberg*, 289 F.2d 522, 523, 129 USPQ 348, 349 (CCPA 1961). In this case, it may be desirable to have the information storing means separate from the processing section, in order to prevent physical access to the server's processing section when physically accessing the information storing means. This will facilitate maintenance and repair operations by allowing the operator to only access individual components such as the information storing means, without physically accessing the server that contains the processing section.

Claim 3; Hasegawa in view of Walker teach a plurality of medal keeping and paying apparatus (Walker, plurality of remote terminal in Fig. 1).

Claim 5, 7; Hasegawa discloses a medal keeping and paying system wherein, The right person information storing means stores the right person peculiar information, and is an information record card possessed by a right person (page 4, paragraph 5; page 5, paragraph 6),

the medal keeping and paying system further comprises information reading means for reading the right person peculiar information from the information record card (page 4, paragraph 5; page 5, paragraph 6),

the processing sections process the right person peculiar information read from the information record card by the information reading means to authenticate the right person (page 5, paragraphs 11, 14).

Claim 9, 11; Hasegawa discloses a medal keeping and paying system as discussed above, and further comprising

index information inputting means (32a in drawing 1) for inputting index information to read out the right person peculiar information from the right person information storing means (page 5, paragraphs 9-14), wherein

the processing section process the right person peculiar information read out by the input index information to authenticate the right person (page 5, paragraph 11).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's amendment necessitated a new ground(s) of rejection.

Regarding claim 1 and the dependent claims of thereof, Applicant argues that Walker fails to teach the processing section is connected to the information storing means through the network interface. However, as discussed above, the claim invention of having the processing section connected to the operation storing means through a network interface would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art

since the courts ruled that it would be obvious to make components separable if it were considered desirable for any reason.

Applicant further argues that the claimed network structure provides a system wherein it is easy to install additional medal keeping and paying apparatuses and the system and be centrally managed (page 11-12 of Applicant's response to arguments). However, Applicant has not provided arguments why it is easy to install additional medal keeping and paying apparatuses and the system and be centrally managed over Walker's network structure. In Walker's network structure, additional medal keeping and paying apparatuses can be easily installed by connecting them to the network. The medal keeping and paying apparatuses can be centrally managed through the server. Applicant further added that the claimed network structure would reduce operations costs and simplify management. However, Applicant failed to specifically discuss why and how Applicant's network structure would reduce operations costs and simplify management. Applicant further provides arguments by describing the structure of Applicant's network structure. However, the description of the network structure fails to discuss why such modifications would be patentably distinct over Walker's.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson H. Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan M. Thai can be reached on (571)272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JHY

/XUAN M. THAI/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714